

CLAIMS

18. (previously presented) A caller announcement apparatus for a telephone system that provisions a telephone call between a caller telephone at a caller station and a called telephone at a called station, where the caller station is associated with an identity, where the telephone system provides signals to the called station that include caller identification signals representative of the identity associated with the caller station and voice signals representative of audio detected by an audio transducer of the caller telephone, and where the voice signals are processed by the called telephone to produce audio using an audio transducer at the called station, the caller announcement apparatus comprising:

a signal receiver at the called station operatively connected to the telephone system to receive signals therefrom, the signal receiver being operative to extract caller identification signals from the signals received from the telephone system and to provide caller identification data corresponding to the extracted caller identification signals;

a processing unit operatively connected to the signal receiver to receive caller identification data therefrom, the processing unit being operative to provide identity information associated with the caller identification data;

an audio announcing circuit operatively connected to the processing unit to receive identity information therefrom, the audio announcing circuit being operative to use the identity information to produce audio using the audio transducer at the called station.

19. (previously presented) The caller announcement apparatus of claim 18 wherein the processing unit comprises memory storage for storing identity information associated with the caller identification data.

20. (previously presented) The caller announcement apparatus of claim 19 wherein the processing unit upon receiving caller identification data extracts from the memory storage the identity information associated with the caller identification data.

21. (currently amended) The caller announcement apparatus of claim 19 wherein the processing unit is operative to add, delete, and edit [identify] identity information stored in the memory storage.

22. (previously presented) The caller announcement apparatus of claim 18 further comprising:

an isolation circuit operative to prevent the telephone system from completing the telephone call from the caller telephone to the called telephone while the audio announcement circuit is producing audio using the audio transducer at the called station.

23. (previously presented) The caller announcement apparatus of claim 22 wherein the isolation circuit is operative to prevent the telephone system from recognizing that the telephone at the called station is off hook while the audio announcement circuit is producing audio using the audio transducer at the called station.

24. (previously presented) The caller announcement apparatus of claim 22 wherein the isolation circuit is further operative to cause the telephone system to complete the telephone call from the caller telephone to the called telephone in response to an input from a party at the called station.

25. (previously presented) The caller announcement apparatus of claim 24 wherein the isolation circuit is further operative to cause the telephone system to recognize that the called telephone is off hook in response to an input from the party at the called station.

26. (previously presented) The caller announcement apparatus of claim 18 wherein the caller identification data includes a telephone number associated with the caller station.

27. (previously presented) The caller announcement apparatus of claim 18 wherein the identity information associated with the caller identification data includes information corresponding to a name associated with the caller station.

28. (previously presented) The caller announcement apparatus of claim 18 wherein the identity information associated with the caller identification data is audio information corresponding to a name associated with the caller station.

29. (previously presented) The caller announcement apparatus of claim 28 wherein the audio information corresponding to the name associated with the caller station is recorded audio information.

30. (previously presented) The caller announcement apparatus of claim 29 wherein the recorded audio information corresponding to the name associated with the caller station is recorded by a user of the called telephone.

31. (previously presented) The caller announcement apparatus of claim 18 wherein the identity information is associated with plural items of caller identification data.

32. (previously presented) The caller announcement apparatus of claim 18 wherein the identity information associated with the caller identification data is information corresponding to a geographical location associated with the caller station.

33. (previously presented) The caller announcement apparatus of claim 32 wherein the identity information associated with the caller identification data is audio information corresponding to a geographical location associated with the caller station.

34. (previously presented) The caller announcement apparatus of claim 18 wherein the identity information associated with the caller identification data is information corresponding to a telephone number associated with the caller station.

35. (previously presented) The caller announcement apparatus of claim 34 wherein the audio announcing circuit includes a speech synthesizing circuit to produce synthesized speech of the telephone number associated with the caller station using the audio transducer at the called station.

36. (previously presented) The caller announcement apparatus of claim 18 wherein the apparatus is a part of the called telephone.

37. (previously presented) The caller announcement apparatus of claim 36 wherein the called telephone is a cordless telephone.

38. (previously presented) The caller announcement apparatus of claim 18 wherein the apparatus is a part of a computer system.

39. (previously presented) The caller announcement apparatus of claim 18 wherein the apparatus is a part of a computer-telephony interface board.

40. (previously presented) The caller announcement apparatus of claim 18 wherein the apparatus is a part of a telephone answering device.

41. (previously presented) The calling party announcement apparatus of claim 18 wherein there are a plurality of called telephones at the called station, and wherein the apparatus is interconnected to the plurality of called telephones.

42. (previously presented) In a telephone system that provisions a telephone call between a caller telephone at a caller station and a called telephone at a called station, where the

caller station is associated with an identity, where the telephone system provides signals to the called station that include caller identification signals representative of the identity associated with the caller station and voice signals representative of audio detected by an audio transducer of the caller telephone, and where the voice signals are processed by the called telephone to produce audio using an audio transducer at the called station, a method of announcing an identity associated with the caller station at the called station, the method comprising:

extracting caller identification signals from the signals received at the called station from the telephone system;

providing caller identification data corresponding to the extracted caller identification signals;

processing the caller identification data to provide identity information associated with the caller identification data;

using the identity information to produce audio using the audio transducer at the called station.

43. (previously presented) The method of claim 42 further comprising:

storing identity information associated with the caller identification data.

44. (previously presented) The method of claim 43 wherein the processing step comprises extracting stored identity information associated with the caller identification data.

45. (previously presented) The method of claim 42 further comprising:

preventing the telephone system from completing the telephone call from the caller telephone to the called telephone while the audio announcement circuit is producing audio using the audio transducer at the called station.

46. (previously presented) The method of claim 45 further comprising:
enabling the telephone system to complete the telephone call in response to an input from
a party at the called station.

47. (previously presented) The method of claim 42 wherein the caller identification
data includes a telephone number associated with the caller station.

48. (previously presented) The method of claim 42 wherein the identity information
associated with the caller identification data includes information corresponding to a name
associated with the caller station.

49. (previously presented) The method of claim 48 wherein the identity information
associated with the caller identification data is audio information corresponding to a name
associated with the caller station.

50. (previously presented) The method of claim 49 further comprising:
recording the audio information corresponding to the name associated with the caller
station.

51. (previously presented) The method of claim 42 wherein the identity information
associated with the caller identification data is information corresponding to a geographical
location associated with the caller station.

52. (canceled)

53. (canceled)

54. (currently amended) [The caller announcement apparatus of claim 53] A caller
announcement apparatus for a telephone system that provisions a telephone call between a caller
station and a called station, where the telephone system provides signals to the called station that

include caller identification signals, and wherein the telephone system further provides signals to the called station that include voice signals representative of audio detected by an audio transducer at the caller station, and wherein the voice signals are processed at the called station to produce audio using [the] an audio transducer at the called station, wherein the audio transducer at the called station is a component of a called telephone at the called station, the caller announcement apparatus comprising:

a signal receiver at the called station operatively connected to the telephone system to receive signals therefrom, the signal receiver being operative to extract caller identification signals from the signals received from the telephone system and to provide caller identification data corresponding to the extracted caller identification signals;

memory storage for storing audio identity information associated with the caller identification data;

a processing unit operatively connected to the signal receiver to receive caller identification data therefrom, the processing unit being operative to access the memory storage to retrieve stored audio identity information associated with the caller identification data;

an audio announcing circuit operatively connected to the processing unit to receive retrieved audio identity information therefrom, the audio announcing circuit being operative to use the retrieved audio identity information to produce audio using the audio transducer at the called station.

55. (canceled)

56. (canceled)

57. (canceled)

58. (canceled)

59. (currently amended) [The method of claim 58] In a telephone system that provisions a telephone call between a caller station and a called station, where the telephone system provides signals to the called station that include caller identification signals, and wherein the telephone system further provides signals to the called station that include voice signals representative of audio detected by an audio transducer at the caller station, and wherein the voice signals are processed at the called station to produce audio using [the] an audio transducer at the called station, a method comprising:

extracting caller identification signals from the signals received at the called station from the telephone system;

providing caller identification data corresponding to the extracted caller identification signals;

storing audio identity information associated with the caller identification data;

using the caller identification data to retrieve stored audio identity information;

producing audio using the retrieved audio identity information wherein the audio is produced using the audio transducer in a called telephone at the called station.

60. (canceled)

61. (canceled)

62. (canceled)

63. (canceled)